

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14-16 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 7 contains allowable subject matter.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Chu at the interview held April 27, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,036) in view of Fujii (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,811), claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohba in view of Fujii and further in view of Kewitsch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,274,288), claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohba in view of Fujii and further in view of Tsai (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,652) and claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohba in view of Fujii and further in view of Shimano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,444). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As agreed during the personal interview, Ohba does not disclose or suggest an optical reproduction apparatus that includes at least a reproduction optical system wherein a

condensing lens is arranged between a light shade and a photodetector, as recited in independent claims 1 and 14-16.

As also agreed during the personal interview, neither Fujii nor Shimano, overcome the deficiencies in Ohba in disclosing a reproduction optical system wherein a condensing lens is arranged between a light shade and a photodetector. Accordingly, any combination of Ohba, Fujii and/or Shimano fails to disclose, suggest or render obvious the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 14-16.

Moreover, Applicant asserts that Kewitsch fails to cure the deficiencies in Ohba and Fujii in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of dependent claim 5, (including the limitations of independent claim 1), and Tsai fails to cure the deficiencies in Ohba and Fujii in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of dependent claim 13 (including the limitations of independent claim 1). For at least these reasons and for their dependence on allowable claim 1, Applicant asserts that claims 5 and 13 define patentable subject matter. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 14-16, and their dependent claims, define patentable subject matter. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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